San Clemente Got Golf Carts

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From News Dispatches

SAN FRANCISCO, July 6—The General Services Administration said today that six expensive golf carts and a house trailer, for changing clothes at the beach, were purchased at the order of the Secret Service for use at the Western White House at San Clemente.

The GSA, which already has reported that $703,167 in government money was spent on President Nixon's San Clemente home, said the new expenses were not included in an audit released last month because they were "office" expenses connected with the presidential complex adjacent to the Western White House and were not connected with the home and grounds themselves.

The GSA also said a silver service set was purchased for use at San Clemente, but its cost would not be included in the new audit because it was not connected with presidential security. It was not immediately known which government agency authoriized the purchase.

The golf carts, estimated to cost $2,000 each, were purchased for Secret Service agents to use while patrolling the San Clemente grounds. The truck-towed house trailer was requested by the agency as "transportation for the President," and was used as a dressing room for the beach below the Western White House.

Thomas Hannon, administrator of the GSA's regional office in San Francisco, said another audit report, dealing with San Clemente office complex expenses, is yet to be issued.

After a May report that only $39,525 had been spent on improvements at the Western White House, the GSA offered a revised figure in June of $414,000, and two weeks ago raised the total to $703,367. Hannon said the "office" expenses released today were in addition to the latest figure.

Meanwhile, in Santa Ana, former Orange County tax assessor Andrew Hinshaw defended his $1.3 million assessment of Western White House property, for which President Nixon paid $1.5 million, on the basis that there was no public record of the purchase price.

Hinshaw, an Orange County congressman elected with Nixon support, called a news conference Thursday to reply to a story Monday in the Orange County Register.

The story quoted an Equalization Board official saying that Mr. Nixon had received favored treatment from Hinshaw on the San Clemente property and has been undertaxed at least $25,000 and perhaps as much as $55,000.

Hinshaw also said that the more than $700,000 in federal funds that went into improving the Nixon property was not taxable because all improvements were for security and belonged to the U.S. government.